

Pennington Borough Environmental Commission

12/18/23

Zoom Virtual

Attendees: Joann Held (Acting Chair), Jim Fuger, Nancy Fishman, Brian Friedlich, Dan Rubenstein, Yasmine Zein, Andy Jackson, Kieran John, John Valenza (Borough Council Liaison)

Unable to attend: Michael Abrahamson

*Notetaker: Nancy Fishman*

1. Public comment- no public attendees
2. Review of past minutes - November 2023
  - a) Moved to approve by Andy Jackson and seconded by Nancy Fishman. Approved
3. Administrative Items (Joann Held)
  - a) ANJEC Dues for 2024
    - i. Although we all received an email about ANJEC dues -PEC usually pays in first quarter.
    - ii. ANJEC sends lots of emails! Full of good information.
  - b) Youth Protection Requirements
    - i. Joann will send video; PEC will watch and send an email back to Mona and Joann
  - c) New Chair or Co-Chairs for PEC
    - i. Joann has been Interim Chair for the last year but would like someone other than the Chair of the Green Team (Joann) to be Chair of the PEC. Members asked to send a note to Joann if interested. Mayor Davy will appoint.
4. Introduction to the MS4 Permit (Joann Held, Brian Friedlich)

Joann and Brian provided a brief overview of MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit. Brian shared a pamphlet produced to help explain: [NJF MS4PermitPrimer.pdf \(njfuture.org\)](#).  
Brief discussion ensued; key takeaways include:

- a) PEC may want to consider coordinating with the Watershed Institute and/or Pennington Public Works.
  - b) The Borough has received a grant to start the mapping of all MS4 stormwater infrastructure.
  - c) PEC might consider assisting with the newly required Watershed Improvement Plan.
5. Borough Council Report (John Valenza)
- a) Tree removal and replanting ordinance is being discussed; this will probably pass soon. Of note, most municipalities already have this – often associated with building permits.
  - b) Looking at salt storage
  - c) The carbon neutral report was presented to Council; they are interested in accelerating how these issues are addressed. John feels this is a good place for the PEC to spend time.
6. Planning/Zoning Board Report (Andy Jackson)
- a) Board voted to acknowledge “Areas in need of redevelopment” – 1). landfill and 2) the contiguous lots between Broemel Place and Delaware Ave
  - b) Citizens advisory group for Masterplan met and decided on sections they will be assisting with.
  - c) Andy reported that Yasmine has completed an excellent Climate Hazard Vulnerability Report that will be used in the Master Plan.
7. Open Space Report (Nancy Fishman)
- a) No meeting in the last month. Alan Hershey presented an update on open space to the Council on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.
8. Carbon Neutral Workgroup (Brian Friedlich)
- a) As Above – the 2022 report (relative to the 2018 report) was presented to Council.
9. Green Team and Sustainable Jersey Update (Joann Held)
- a) Reminder Jan 24<sup>th</sup> County wide Green Team meeting
  - b) Metal waste collection Hopewell Township is now a partner. Will take anything that is 60% metal.
  - c) Hopewell Borough is making progress on Sustainable Jersey certification.

10. Old Business - none

11. New Business – role of PEC on educating the community, for a future meeting.

12. Future Issues

- a) Education projects: Recycling, Energy Efficiency, etc.
- b) MS4 Permit (training, public outreach, funding)
- c) Inviting teens to join the EC (as Junior Members)
- d) Sustainable Jersey Certification
- e) Light Pollution restrictions

Next Meeting – January 22, 7:30pm

Adjourned 8:46pm